

Serial No.: 09/989,049
Amendment dated 22 February 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed 10 February 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The thigh cuff of Claim [[1]] 5 wherein the first component and the second component are adjustable vertically and laterally with respect to each other.
3. (Currently Amended) The thigh cuff of Claim [[1]] 5 wherein at least one of the rear adjustment panel and the front adjustment panel include an adjustment slot.
4. (Currently Amended) The thigh cuff of Claim [[1]] 5 wherein the rear adjustment panel is connected between the first component and the second component at two connection points.

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5. (Currently Amended) ~~The thigh cuff of Claim 1 wherein~~

A thigh cuff for use with a pelvic brace, the thigh cuff comprising:

a thigh shell having a first component and a second component;

a rear adjustment panel connecting the first component with the second component along a rear portion of the thigh cuff; and

a front adjustment panel extending between the first component and the second component along a front portion of the thigh cuff, at least one of the rear adjustment panel and the front adjustment panel ~~[[are]]~~ asymmetric and reversible to permit use of the thigh cuff on either a left leg or a right leg.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The thigh cuff of Claim 1 wherein~~

A thigh cuff for use with a pelvic brace, the thigh cuff comprising:

a thigh shell having a first component and a second component;

a rear adjustment panel connecting the first component with the second component along a rear portion of the thigh cuff; and

a front adjustment panel extending between the first component and the second component along a front portion of the thigh cuff, the front adjustment panel ~~further comprises~~ including a horizontal slot and an array of ventilation apertures.

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The pelvic bracing system of Claim 8 wherein the thigh cuff further comprises:~~ A pelvic bracing system comprising:

a hip brace;

a thigh cuff adjustable laterally and vertically, the thigh cuff comprising
a thigh shell having a first component and a corresponding second component;

an articulating orthopedic joint connecting the hip brace with respect to
the thigh cuff;

a rear adjustment panel connecting the first component with the second component along a rear portion of the thigh cuff; and

a front adjustment panel extending between the first component and the second component along a front portion of the thigh cuff.

10. (Original) The thigh cuff of Claim 9 wherein the first component and the second component are adjustable vertically and laterally with respect to each other.

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11. (Original) The thigh cuff of Claim 9 wherein at least one of the rear adjustment panel and the front adjustment panel include an adjustment slot.

12. (Original) The thigh cuff of Claim 9 wherein two rear adjustment panels are connected between the first component and the second component at two connection points.

13. (Original) The thigh cuff of Claim 9 wherein at least one of the rear adjustment panel and the front adjustment panel are asymmetric to permit use of the thigh cuff on either a left leg or a right leg.

14. (Original) The thigh cuff of Claim 9 wherein the front adjustment panel further comprises a horizontal slot and an array of ventilation apertures.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A pelvic bracing system comprising:~~
~~———— a first hip plate and a second hip plate pivotally connected with respect~~
~~to one another; The pelvic bracing system of Claim 31 further comprising:~~
a thigh cuff adjustable laterally and vertically; and

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an articulating orthopedic joint connecting one of the first hip plate and the second hip plate with respect to the thigh cuff.

16. (Original) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 15 wherein the first hip plate and the second hip plate are adjustable at least one of laterally and rotationally with respect to the pelvic bracing system.

17. (Original) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 15 wherein at least one of the first hip plate and the thigh cuff further comprise a universal mounting block having a plurality of threaded channels to accept the connecting joint.

18. (Currently Amended) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 15 wherein the thigh cuff further comprises at least one strap engaged between [[the]] a first component of the thigh cuff and [[the]] a second component of the thigh cuff.

19. (Previously Presented) A pelvic bracing system comprising:
a first hip plate having a first attachment aperture and a first adjustment slot on a posterior portion of the first hip plate;

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a second hip plate having a second attachment aperture and a second adjustment slot on a posterior portion of the second hip plate; and

a posterior panel having a sizing channel positioned at each end portion connected with respect to the posterior portion of the first hip plate and the posterior portion of the second hip plate with a plurality of adjustment screws.

20. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 19 wherein at least one of the first adjustment slot and the second adjustment slot is configured in an arcuate shape.

21. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 19 wherein the first hip plate and the second hip plate each is laterally adjustable with respect to the posterior panel.

22. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 19 wherein the first hip plate and the second hip plate each is rotationally adjustable with respect to the posterior panel.

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23. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 19 wherein the adjustment screws comprise an adjustment screw and a nut having a mating surface between about 0.5 inch and about 1.0 inch in diameter.

24. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 19 further comprising a belt connecting the first hip plate with respect to the second hip plate along an anterior portion of the first hip plate and the second plate.

25. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 24 wherein the belt comprises a removable first strap having a removable female buckle portion and a second strap having a removable male buckle portion mateable with the female buckle portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 25 wherein the first strap and the second strap each has a fastening means for connecting the first hip plate with the second hip plate.

27. (Previously Presented) A pelvic bracing system comprising:

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a first hip plate and a second hip plate pivotally connected with respect to one another; and

a posterior panel connected to a posterior portion of the first hip plate and a posterior portion of the second hip plate, the posterior panel connected to the first hip plate and the second hip plate along a first adjustment slot formed in an arcuate path along the first hip plate and a second adjustment slot formed in an arcuate path along the second hip plate.

28. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 27 further comprising:

a belt further connecting the first hip plate and the second hip plate, the belt positioned over an anterior portion of the first hip plate and the second hip plate.

29. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 28 wherein the belt has at least one of a removable female buckle portion and a removable male buckle portion.

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30. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 27 wherein the first hip plate and the second hip plate are adjustable at least one of laterally and rotationally with respect to the pelvic bracing system.

31. (Previously Presented) A pelvic bracing system comprising:
a first hip plate having a first adjustment slot formed in an arcuate path;
a second hip plate having a second adjustment slot formed in an arcuate path; and

a posterior panel having a pair of sizing channels extending toward each end of the posterior panel, each sizing channel of the pair connected to one of the first adjustment slot and the second adjustment slot to form a pelvic brace.

32. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 31 wherein at least one of the first hip plate and the second hip plate is laterally adjustable with respect to the posterior panel by guiding an adjustment screw along at least one of the sizing channels.

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33. (Previously Presented) The pelvic bracing system of Claim 31 wherein the first hip plate further comprises a universal mounting block having a plurality of threaded channels to accept an orthopedic joint.